

I

B O R O U G H O F D R O I T W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and of the

B O R O U G H S U R V E Y O R
and
C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

for the year

1971

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1971-72

His Worship the Mayor: Councillor D. Platts

Deputy Mayor: Councillor J. H. Brackston

Aldermen: - R. D. N. Fabricius, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.
- B. Inett
- R. Jolliffe J.P.
- J. A. Pittaway (deceased)

Councillors: - E. A. Baggott
- Mrs. T. D. Hammond
- S. B. Harris
- D. S. Lawley
- T. Morgan
- H. Roberts
- Mrs. A. Sandles
- G. D. Showell
- Mrs. M. G. S. Tedford
- J. F. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H., M.R.S.H., M.F.C.M.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector Graham L. Robinson, C.Eng., F.I.Mun.E.,
M.I.H.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Certificated Meat & Food Inspector

Additional Public Health Inspector Richard Hill, M.A.P.H.I.,
Certificated Meat & Food Inspector
Certificates in Sanitary Science
(Meat and Foods)
Liverpool School of Hygiene

Public Health Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich, WR9 8DD.

August, 1972

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting this my seventeenth Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

The town has been accepting overspill from Birmingham and the West Midlands for a number of years now, and this is becoming evident in a small but satisfying increase in the population and the number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (Section A). I do not wish to steal the thunder of the Chairman of the Town Development Committee who has just published his eighth Annual Report, but if I may be permitted to repeat one or two significant remarks it will emphasise the position. The total number of dwellings completed (at 31.3.72) under the terms of the agreement with Birmingham Corporation to provide 2,000 rented houses was 1,339. The total number of private dwellings (since the commencement of the scheme) at the same date was 642.

The Secretary of State for the Environment approved in May 1971 the Town Centre proposals and confirmed the No.3 Compulsory Purchase Order in January of this year. Detailed discussions are now taking place with the County Council and the other Authorities for the programming of the Inner Ring Road, the Police Station, Magistrates' Court, Health Centre, Library and Fire Station involving arrangements in relation to reaccommodation for those occupants displaced by redevelopment.

There has also been considerable activity on the Industrial Zone, new factories such as Allibert (U.K.) Ltd., Christian Salvesen, Union Cold Storage, Turner Fain and Adpac being added to existing ones which are expanding their premises. This is most encouraging, even if it means more work for our Public Health staff.

The Council acquired the Brine Baths from a Private Medical Trust in August, 1971 and have managed to keep the 'big swim' open ever since despite a number of difficulties. This was done to prevent a long established institution from closing down. I wish to make a plea that all possible steps are taken to proceed with the programme of expansion as envisaged by the Working Party even if it does mean a small burden on the Rates, as I am sure it will be in the interests of the General Public at large. The Baths mean a great deal to many sufferers who continue to visit despite the absence of medical treatment. I am convinced that there is a gap between illness and positive health, which the National Health Service will not fill by providing such facilities at the new Outpatients and Hydrotherapy Department at Highfield Hospital. Also there are a number of Disabled Persons which the Social Services Department over a wide area have not yet been able to satisfy. Add to this the obvious need for Indoor Sports facilities in view of the typical inclement British weather, and I am sure the Council have a project worthy of long term consideration. Maybe the Health Authorities of the future will take a different view from the present one and add their support eventually.

I have re-shaped Section B of the Report to give some indication of the three branches of the National Health Service which will become unified on the appointed day. It is now apparent that this will take place on the 1st April, 1974 at the same time as the Re-organisation of Local Government. By setting up Steering Groups and Working Parties, the Department of the Environment have made it clear that Water Re-organisation together with Sewerage and Sewage Disposal is also being passed to new Regional Authorities, of which Droitwich will be part of Mid-Severn Three.

These changes are going to affect everyone working in Local Government but perhaps most of all the M.O.H. who in passing out of Local Government is going to be asked to relinquish his title. The term Community Physician (currently in use) depicts a mythical figure whose image has not yet been fully formed. He 'looks in a glass darkly' not quite sure what he will be, but assured by the politicians of a better future.

What of the community at large, however? Are they going to benefit from these drastic changes? The whole exercise will be worthless if they do not!

I remain, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health

LSS/MGM/PT

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area

2040 acres

Registrar General's Estimate of
resident population mid 1971 12,680 (11,650)

Number of inhabited houses 31st March, 1971
(according to Rate books) 3,990 (3,525)

Rateable value at 31st March, 1971. £546,382 (£486,143)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1971 £5,124 (£1,918)

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	106	119	225 (215)
Illegitimate	8	6	14 (12)

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6%	(5%)
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.8	(19.5)
Birth Rate - England and Wales	16.0	(16.0)

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year.)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	4	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	16	(17)
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	12	(13)

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	61	66	127

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.0	(10.6)
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	7.6	(8.1)
Death Rate - England and Wales	11.6	(11.7)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	8	(13)
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales	18	(18)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	4	(9)
Neonatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales	12	(12)
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	21	(26)
Perinatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales	22	(23)
Maternal Deaths	Nil	-
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	-

CAUSE OF DEATH

(in accordance with the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases", B List - 50 Main Causes)

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasn, Oesophagus ...	1	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasn, Stomach ...	1	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasn, Intestine ...	-	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasn, Lung, Bronchus	7	2
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasn, Prostate ...	2	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases ...	1	-
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	-	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	-	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	-	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	17	13
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	4	2
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	5	12
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1
B31	Influenza	1	-
B32	Pneumonia	3	14
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	4
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1
B34	Peptic Ulcer	1	-
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-
B42	Congenital Anomalies	-	1
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc	-	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	2
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1
BE48	All Other Accidents	1	1
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>		61	66

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1971

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Dysentery	Polio-myelitis	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Infective Jaundice
Under 1 year	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	4	-	2	-	-	1	-
3 - 4 years	6	-	-	-	2	2	-
5 years +	3	1	4	-	4	-	-
10 years +	2	-	1	-	2	-	3
20 years +	1	-	4	-	1	2	-
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	18	1	11	-	9	5	4

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1971 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1971	4	1	-	-
Additions to register during the year				
- new cases	1	1	-	-
- transfers	1	-	-	-
	6	2	-	-
Deductions from register during the year	2	1	-	-
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1971	4	1	-	-

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on one occasion during 1971. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but few applications for assistance are being received.

END OF SECTION "A"

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Worcestershire County Council

The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(A) FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children

Ante-Natal services are now basically provided by the General Medical Practitioners in the town, but Parentcraft and Relaxation Classes are still held on alternate Thursdays at the Norbury Clinic, a Physiotherapist being in attendance.

The District Nurses and Midwives operate from their own homes in accordance with the wishes of the family Doctor.

Child Health Services are available every Tuesday and Friday afternoon at the Norbury Clinic, Friar Street, and these supplement the services provided by the General Practitioners, essentially being Preventive and Health Educational. Immunisation procedures are carried out as shown on Page 7 and Welfare Foods are available. A small pre-school Handicapped Children's Playgroup has now been set up on Wednesdays at the Royal George Buildings under the care of the Health Visitors.

2. Health Visiting Service

There are now five Health Visitors working from the Royal George Buildings and they are attached to the two General Practices in the town. Their main duties are in the field of Child Care but they are also responsible for the Health and Welfare of the whole family, carrying out systematic visiting of homes where there are children, and also being in attendance at the Child Health Clinic. One Specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis. There is also a Geriatric Health Visitor caring for the elderly in the town.

3. Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is in Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. The Service is on Radio Control and can be summoned quickly to any emergency. A special Ambulance is still used for Rheumatic cases but is now based at Highfield Hospital.

4. School Health Service

School Medical Officers visit all Primary, Middle and Secondary schools in the Borough regularly. Every child receives three routine Medical Examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are inspected more frequently. Visual Acuity and Colour Tests are carried out and an Audiometrician visits the schools to carry out routine hearing tests. Children who fail these tests are called to a diagnostic Hearing Clinic to be seen by a Doctor and may be subsequently referred to Hospital.

5. Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and Immunisation procedures are carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor or at County Council Clinics. Smallpox Vaccination is no longer recommended as a routine procedure except for persons travelling abroad, and emergencies will be dealt with as and when they arise. In a way this is rather unfortunate as a good response was achieved from the General Public during 1971. The various inoculations carried out during the year are shown below:

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course 202 (140)

Number of children who received a reinforcing dose 188 (230)

(ii) Tetanus Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course 205 (141)

Number of children who received a reinforcing dose 212 (235)

(iii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course 179 (125)

(iv) Measles Vaccination

Number of children who received a Primary dose 249 (128)

(v) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received primary vaccination 133 (76)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated 8 (9)

(vi) Polioomyelitis Vaccination

Number of persons who received a full course
during the year 190 (138)

Number of persons who received re-inforcing doses
during the year 201 (280)

6. Family Planning and Cervical Cytology Clinics

These Clinics are held in conjunction with each other at the County Clinic, off Infirmary Walk, Worcester. Appointments are provided on a Monday Evening and an open Clinic is held on a Wednesday (6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.) In Droitwich it is better to make arrangements through the Health Visitors at Royal George Buildings (Tel. Droitwich 3328). (Figures in brackets relate to previous year)

(B) FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1. The new Social Services Department became operative with effect from 1st April, 1971, and in Worcestershire four Area offices were opened. Droitwich comes under the Bromsgrove Area (County Buildings, Windsor Street, Bromsgrove, Tel.75331) but staff are also available at certain times at the Royal George Buildings in Droitwich. The Social Services have been formed from an amalgamation of the Welfare Department, Children's Department and Mental Health Section of the Health Department, together with added functions, e.g. Home Helps, Child Minders and the operation of the Disabled Persons' Act.

2. Worcestershire Executive Council

Two "Family Doctor" Practices exist in the town, one at 'The Hollies' comprising four General Practitioners and the other at Royal George Buildings with three General Practitioners.

A new Health Centre is included in the Plans for Town Centre Development but is unlikely to be completed before unification of the National Health Service in 1974. It is hoped that all three branches of the Services will be able to participate in its use at that time.

3. Regional Hospital Board

The following Hospital Services are available:-

- (i) District General Hospitals in Bromsgrove and Worcester.
- (ii) An Isolation Hospital at Newtown Road, Worcester.
- (iii) Maternity Departments at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Worcester.
- (iv) National Hospitals for Rheumatic Diseases in Droitwich (St. John's and Highfield).

Unfortunately Birmingham Regional Hospital Board decided to discontinue treatment at the Brine Baths which belonged to a Private Medical Trust. Facilities for Hydrotherapy in fresh water have now been provided at Highfield Hospital. The Borough Council acquired the Brine Baths on 31st August, 1971 and have managed to keep the large bath open for the benefit of the General Public. It is hoped to develop a Sport and Recreational complex around the Baths also catering for disabled persons.

- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove, and Powick, Worcester.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory Service at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to doctors for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens, chemical analyses of Food and Drugs, Water Sewage, etc., being carried out by the County Analyst.
- (vii) A special Clinic for Venereal Diseases is open at Worcester Royal Infirmary (without appointment) at the following times:-
Monday (men and women) 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Friday (men) 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

All matters are dealt with in a strictly confidential manner.

END OF SECTION 'B'

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 transferred the Council's Water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gall water tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory.

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from five separate sources near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all five boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date 30.11.71.	No. of Colonies growing on Agar		Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coli	Remarks
	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 22°C			
No. 1 Borehole Brockhill P/Station	2	1	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
Nos. 1,3&4 Boreholes Bellington P/Station	4	57	Nil	Nil	"
Nos.3 & 4 Boreholes Sugarbrook P/Station	1	3	Nil	Nil	"
No. 2 Borehole Washing- Stocks P/Station	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	"
No. 1 Borehole Wildmoor P/Station	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	"

Chemical Analysis - No's 1, 3, and 4, Boreholes
Sugarbrook Pumping Station.

16th November, 1971.

Colour Colourless
Odour None
Deposit None pH 7.9

<u>Chemical Examination</u>	<u>Parts per million</u>
Suspended Matter (Dried at 100°C)	-
Total Dissolved Solids (Dried at 180°C)	185
Chlorine present as Chloride	10
Hardness Non-Carbonate	4
" Carbonate	166
" Total	170
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27°C)	0.05
Toxic Metals	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	Nil
Fluorine	Not estimated
Synthetic Detergents (as Manoxol)	-
Phosphates (as PO ₄)	-
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	4

(c) Fluoridation was commenced in July, 1968 and is now being carried out at Sugarbrook and Wildmoor Pumping Stations. The situation will not be satisfactory until all sources are treated, but the levels on water entering the Borough have improved in recent months, standing between 0.75 - 1.00 p.p.m.

(d) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent but is fairly hard.

(e) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(f) Well supplies

Three samples were taken from one house and found to be unsatisfactory during the year. In fact the property was acquired by the Council and connected to a Mains supply.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The first stage of the Ladywood Water Pollution Control Works was opened on Friday 24th July, 1970 by the Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, M.B.E., M.P., Secretary of State for the Environment. The scheme is ultimately designed to cater for a population of 30,000 to 35,000 and a flow of 2,650,000 gallons per day, but less than 1,000,000 gallons per day are at present being dealt with. The 'Pasveer Ditch' originally constructed as a temporary measure to cope with 250,000 gallons per day is now lying idle pending the flow increasing to design capacity.

Mr. K. Kingham, the Effluent Control Officer/Chemist and Mr. E. Hood Sewage Works Manager, have continued to supervise the plant carefully so that excellent results have been obtained well within the limits set by the Severn River Authority when their consent was issued. In view of the considerable amount of new industry entering the town, the restriction on toxic metals (total not to exceed 0.5 p.p.m.) was considered to be too stringent and an Appeal was lodged with the Ministry.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service has had to deal with an ever increasing volume of refuse with the development of the new housing estates at Chawson and Boycott. Trolleys collect plastic sacks to various collection points on these new estates and they are then cleared by the refuse collection vehicle. Large skips are also available at strategic points for the dumping of large scrap, and this has worked fairly satisfactorily, although it is difficult to prevent scavenging by animals.

The refuse disposal service is run in conjunction with Droitwich Rural District Council who now own a large quarry at Hanbury Wharf which should provide ample tipping capacity for many years. A road has been run into the site, and pumping equipment has disposed of much of the surplus water. It is only one mile from the town centre on the east side of the motorway, and is very suitable for the needs of an expanding town. With reorganised Local Government areas pending, the site may well be used over a wider catchment area in the future.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Details of this work are included in the report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector. The Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. Hill has done some very good work on Offices and Shop premises and Food Hygiene. With the development of the Industrial Estate, a number of cold storage food factories now require supervision, particularly with regard to imported goods, which have not been subject to inspection at the Port of Embarkation. This work involves a detailed knowledge of the Imported Food Regulations and is time consuming but at present it is not contemplated that extra staff will be necessary.

In co-operation with the staff of the Town Development Committee, the Newtown General Improvement Area (involving some 300 dwellings) has been declared. This involves Miller Street, Burrish Street, Albert Street, West Street, St. Nicholas Street and Manning Road, and work is likely to begin on the improvements to St. Nicholas Street area soon.

In October, 1971, a Clearance Area (Newtown No.1) was declared on the northern side of the General Improvement Area. This involved seventeen houses which will be the subject of Compulsory Purchase and the site will ultimately be redeveloped by the erection of flats for the elderly.

A Public Inquiry is likely to be held during 1972.

5. RODENT CONTROL

Since we lost our Rodent Operative in 1969 this work has been carried out on a contract basis under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector and is working quite satisfactorily.

1971	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Domestic and Business Premises	Agricultural Buildings
Number of properties in the District	5,108	3
Total number of properties following notification	189	-
Number infested by (i) Rats	77	-
(ii) Mice	42	-
Total number of properties inspected for reasons other than notification	6	-
Number infested by (i) Rats	3	-
(ii) Mice	3	-
Number of sewers infested by rats during the year	Nil	-

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1971 -

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
1. Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	69	25	4
3. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	72	28	4

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Factory Inspector</u>	<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
1. Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
2. Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
3. Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
4. Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	-	-	-
5. Ineffective drainage of Floors	-	-	-	-	-
6. Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

Number of outworkers - NIL

END OF SECTION "C"

SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slum Clearance during 1971.

A.	<u>Number of new houses erected:-</u>	1971.	
	(i) By the Local Authority	215	(379)
	(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil	(Nil)
	(iii) By other bodies or persons	74	(53)
B.	<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-</u>		
	(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act)	131	(133)
	(ii) Number of re-inspections	141	(135)
	(iii) Under the Housing Acts		
	Number of inspections	43	(173)
	Number of re-inspections	(25)	..
C.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>		
	1. <u>Under the Public Health Acts</u>		
	(a) Number of notices served	15	(13)
	(b) Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices		
	(i) By owners	15	(13)
	(ii) By Local Authority	Nil	(Nil)
	2. <u>Under the Housing Act, 1957</u>		
	(a) Notices served for repairs (Section 9)	Nil	(Nil)
	(b) Number of notices served (Section 16)	2	(7)
	(c) Number of undertakings accepted	1	(Nil)
	(d) Number of demolition or closing orders made (Section 17)	Nil	(7)
	(e) Number of houses demolished during the year	21	(6)
	(Figures in brackets relate to previous year)		
D.	<u>Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act, 1957)</u>		
	1. (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil	
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	Nil	
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	Nil	
	2. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil	
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil	
	(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil	

END OF SECTION "D"

SECTION "E" - INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of all food premises in the town was carried out during the year. The various categories of premises dealt with are shown below and the number of inspections carried out in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Licensed Premises	28
Grocers	16
Greengrocers	9
Confectioners	3
Wet Fish Shop	1
Fish & Chip Shops	2
Cafe's	9
Butchers' shops	8
Bakehouses	2
Works Canteens	6
Registered premises for the sale of Ice Cream	24
School Meals Kitchens	10
Institution Kitchens	5
	<hr/>
Total number of premises	123
	<hr/>

There is one manufacturer of Ice-cream in the town and 27 retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently and there are four or five different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The Grading of this product is generally not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. The Gradings of Samples taken during the year are shown below:-

1971	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
Hard Ice Cream	78	65	7	4	2
Soft Ice Cream	21	18	2	Nil	1

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, Dealers' Licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Only limited sampling was carried out during the year, but results were satisfactory.

	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
Pasteurised Milk	10	Satisfactory
Sterilized Milk (U.H.T.)	2	"
Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk	Nil	None retailed
Fresh Cream	2	Satisfactory

Voluntary surrender of Foodstuffs

The following products were found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

166 lbs.	of	Beef
70	" "	Lamb
89	" "	Pork
15	" "	Offal
30	" "	Fish
105	" "	Dressed Chickens
32	" "	Beef Sausage Meat
6	" "	Ox Tongue

Imported Food Regulations, 1968

The amount of foodstuffs which were examined at the Christian Salvesen Cold Store as conveyed by containerisation vehicles from the various Ports to Droitwich, was as follows:-

9 tons 4 cwts.	of	Frozen Prawns
38 tons 14 cwts.	of	Frozen Peas
850 tons	of	Inedible Offal from New Zealand

Extraneous matter in food

The following complaints were investigated, reported to Committee and appropriate action taken, as instructed. Court proceedings were instituted in connection with Item No.8 and a conviction obtained. (£25 fine plus costs):-

1.	Beef Burgers	...	Metal Object
2.	Loaf of Bread	...	Flour Beetles
3.	Cornish Pasty	...	Rubber Button
4.	Bottle of Milk	...	Tiny Snail
5.	Cottage Cheese	...	Mould
6.	Loaf of Bread	...	Pink Mould
7.	Chocolate Biscuits		Larvae of Chocolate Moth
8.	Loaf of Bread	...	Piece of man-made fibre.
9.	Bottle of Milk	...	Vegetable matter
10.	Packet of Crumpets		Mould

END OF SECTION "E"

August, 1972.

To: His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Members of the Droitwich Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 27th Annual Report to your Council setting out the work of the department during the past year and interesting aspects of development of the town and related policies of your Council.

The three matters particularly referred to in my previous Annual Report would appear to be developing satisfactorily. The Droitwich Preservation Trust has acquired such funds that it would seem likely that the work of restoration of Priory House should commence in 1972. Droitwich (St. Peter's Fields) Sports Association has become a reality, a Grant has been promised for a new Cricket Square and Cricket should again be played on St. Peter's Fields in 1972, with the development of the St. Peter's Fields sports complex underway. The General Improvement Area of Newtown has been accepted, and this I think is already apparent in the general cessation of requests to the Borough Council to purchase properties because the owners cannot sell them. The number of applications for Improvement Grants which have been received from the area, indicate that owners, particularly owner/occupiers are generally now prepared to spend money on their properties and improve them with the assistance of Grants.

The agreement that I.C.I. would cease pumping at Stoke Works has allowed private building to commence again, and the sale of property to take place much more freely.

The Borough Council are naturally anxious to learn whether the cessation of pumping will bring any problems in the lower part of the town. It is anticipated that 1972 will reveal any such problems, which it is thought will not by any means be insoluble.

Once again I would thank your Council for your sympathetic advice and support, and the help of my staff, together with the co-operation of my colleagues, the other Chief Officers.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below:-

	<u>1971</u>
Accumulations found	9
Visits under Pet Animals Act	4
Visits to Piggeries	6
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains found choked	9
Drains tested	12
Drains found defective	4
Visits to Works in Progress	21

<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	1971
Visits re: Improvement Grants	140
Repairs and Public Health Conditions	131
Re-inspections re above	141
Housing Act inspections	49
Houses in Multiple occupation	27
<u>Rodent Control</u>	
Primary visits	12
Re-visits	18
Factory Act Visits	25
<u>Food Hygiene</u>	
Visits to:	
Butchers' shops	19
Bakehouses	51
Confectioners' shops	20
Grocers	38
Greengrocers	10
Fried Fish & Chip Shops	23
Ice Cream shops and Manufacturers	113
Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School Kitchens	34
Factory Canteens	8
Licensed Premises	32
<u>Visits:-</u>	
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	114
Clean Air Act	15
Caravans	54
Lido	6
Miscellaneous visits	171
Food Vending and Delivery Vehicles	17
Noise Abatement visits	4
Public Health Laboratory	52
Visits Imported Food Regulations 1968	40

Demolition and Clearance Areas

Closing Orders in Lieu of Demolition Orders

4 Woodfield Road

Undertaking not to Re-let Living Accommodation

30 High Street

The following houses which were the subject of Demolition or Clearance Orders were demolished and the sites cleared during the year:-

Bromsgrove Road Nos. 43, 45, 47, 49 and 51.

Worcester Road Nos. 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64. and 78.

Albert Street Nos. 18, 20, 22 and 24.

Improvement Grants

There tended to be a lull in the number of houses being improved probably because owners were waiting to see the outcome of the Area of Special Consideration, and a number were in fact preparing schemes for submission.

Applications were submitted as follows:-

<u>Discretionary Grants</u>	£
No.48 Burrish Street	1,000
No.50 Burrish Street	1,000
No.205 Worcester Road	250
"Dodderhill Villa" Crutch Lane	790
Nos. 6/8 High Street	1,200
 <u>Standard Grants</u>	 £
No. 19 Burrish Street	146
No. 46 Burrish Street	186.75

Boycott Farm Improvement

The best method of redevelopment of Boycott Farm was long considered by both the Development Committee and their Officers and the Borough Council, a variety of alternatives being prepared. It was feared at one time due to the large amount of vandalism which took place, that the Farm and its buildings could not be saved. Eventually, a Developer was found who was prepared to undertake the development, leasing the property from the Borough Council by way of the Development Committee, resulting in 17 dwellings being constructed from the Farm House and the Buildings, an Improvement Grant of £17,200 being approved towards the work by the Council.

Falsam Pits Bungalow - Improvement

This property, acquired by the Development Committee fell into the Borough Council's ownership upon the premises becoming vacant. The bungalow, although attractive in many ways, was not connected to the main water supply and drained only to a cesspool. As a water main was laid recently adjacent to the property, and a trunk sewer had become available on the adjoining land, the Borough Council undertook the improvement of the property, providing adequate drainage and water supply, at the same time obtaining an Improvement Grant.

The tenant of the Old Drill Hall cottage, which was a property which had fallen into very poor condition as a result of subsidence, was rehoused in this bungalow, and the Drill Hall premises demolished and the site cleared.

Droitwich Preservation Trust - Priory House and other Properties

The Preservation Trust sponsored by the Borough Council, commenced work upon the acquisition of funds in order to retain Priory House and eventually other properties worthy of preservation within the town.

The Trust appointed an Architect to prepare a scheme for the renewal and renovation of Priory House, at the same time launching a public appeal to raise funds. At the end of the year, the Borough Council had given to the Trust the leasehold of the property. Plans were well in hand for invitation for tender, and the scheme of fund raising was underway.

Area of Special Consideration - Newtown General Improvement Area

Following the Public Meeting referred to in my last Annual Report, the Borough Council authorised that the preparation of this scheme should proceed and the Working Party continue studying the project. It was decided in the first instance to deal with the area around St. Nicholas Street, as a first section for improvement. Detailed plans were drawn up for the area, bearing in mind the criticisms raised at the Public Meeting and Exhibition. A further Public Meeting was held, this was well attended and the revised scheme generally found to be acceptable. Following this, a series of meetings with individual groups of owners took place considering their properties and discussing with them details relating to their properties. In the main agreement was reached, and by the end of 1971, detailed proposals were being prepared for acceptance by the Borough Council, and it was hoped that 1972 would see the work underway.

Conversion to Natural Gas

This year saw the conversion to natural gas in Droitwich by the West Midlands Gas Board. The work generally appeared to proceed fairly smoothly, and although there were difficulties, these appeared to be quickly overcome. On two occasions, fires in Council houses were alleged to be due to the conversion, but this was never satisfactorily proved.

Private Building Development

At the commencement of the year, private building had almost ceased, primarily because of the uncertainty of the effects of subsidence due to brine. Advice was obtained from a Consultant Geologist, Mr. Basil Poole, of Messrs. Johnson, Poole & Bloomer of Dudley, who was engaged upon the preparation of a complete survey and report upon subsidence within the Borough. It was known that I.C.I. would cease pumping in 1973, and with this in mind, Mr. Poole was asked to report upon what developments could take place prior to this date, and whether any ill effects from the cessation of pumping might result. During the year, it was learnt that in fact Messrs. I.C.I. would cease pumping during 1972. In the latter part of the year, Mr. Poole presented his report, and intimated that some building could commence, with adequate foundations, in the south eastern part of the Borough. The Developers were advised of this, plans were submitted, and by the end of the year, building work had again commenced upon 146 houses.

Particular estates were being developed by:-

Messrs. Carlton Homes	'Springmeadows' Estate
Percy Bilton Ltd.	'Cherry Hill' Estate
The Greaves Organisation Ltd.	'Hillcrest' Estate

The Whitehouse development, and a number of smaller isolated groups of houses.

The original scheme of development in the South East part of the Borough as negotiated by the Borough Council with the Developers, was to provide drainage, both storm and foul, in the form of a trunk sewer, together with a pumping station, and the improvement of Newland Road. Newland Road was to have been fronted on the one side by houses, and the other by a school to be built by the Education Authority. There still

being the uncertainty as to future subsidence in the area, the Education Authority decided not to proceed at the present time with the building of the school. The Developers of this particular site, on their part, indicated that they were not prepared to contribute as originally agreed, to the widening of Newland Road until development took place. On the other hand, the Developers to the west of Newland Road were pressing on with their development, and urged the Borough Council to improve the highway. In fact houses were completed before any highway improvement was undertaken, and complaints were received by the Borough Council who at the end of the year were endeavouring to reach a decision upon this difficult problem probably by undertaking a partial improvement.

Due to subsidence, the dwelling situated at the top of Newland Hill, known as 'Montrosa' became so affected that it was demolished by the owner.

Council House Development

With the availability of houses on request of the Borough Council to the Development Committee, the Borough Council's building activities were primarily directed to relieving the needs of elderly people by the provision of bungalows or flats, the most notable of which was the completion of the development of Lullow Field House, which consists of a Warden's Bungalow and 32 flats. This is a very admirable and attractive development, replacing a row of very obsolete properties, the subject of a Clearance Area.

A group of bungalows was ready for commencement off Old Coach Road at the end of the year, to be known as Doverdale Close.

Condensation in Council Houses

Some problems continued in this field, and your Clerk of Works gave this matter particular attention, primarily from the point of view of advice to tenants. This had good results, and the number of complaints receded, the majority of problems having now been solved.

Sponsored Housing

With the slowing down of the building of Council houses, the Development Committee commenced work upon building estates for sponsored houses for sale. By the end of the year, negotiations were nearing completion, and building should proceed in 1972.

Norbury House

With the growth of the town and the unavoidable increase in staff, the Borough Council had to give thought as to how to provide adequate office accommodation for the Town Clerk and the Borough Treasurer, who were still situated at the Town Hall in very poor circumstances.

It was eventually decided to use the first floor of the Norbury House for office purposes, a wing being allocated to the Town Clerk, another to the Borough Treasurer, and the third to the Housing Manager who was to move from Covercroft House, thereby making further accommodation available for the Borough Surveyor's Department. It was anticipated that these departments would enter into occupation early in 1972.

Highways

With the development of the town, it has been necessary to do a measure of surface dressing every year, rather than only once in three, when the whole were attended to. In the past year 30,819 sq. yds. of surface dressing were completed.

The large number of areas under development inevitably caused difficulties during the winter months by mud being lifted from the sites on to the public highways thereby causing greasy muddy conditions which were dangerous to road users. This matter was strongly taken up with the Contractors concerned, with the helpful co-operation of the police. Generally, Contractors co-operated better than in previous years, but this still leaves much to be desired.

A complaint was received that children tended to play upon the underpass parapet walls on Chawson Estate and were likely to fall off injuring themselves. The Council agreed to the provision of fencing at one underpass by way of a trial. This, it would seem, is really entirely a matter for parents to restrain their children from foolish and dangerous activities. Whilst the fence on the parapet can theoretically prevent children from this danger, in practice there is nothing to prevent a determined child from climbing on the parapet outside the fence with even greater danger to himself.

Sewage Disposal

The plant at Ladywood Water Pollution Control Works operated satisfactorily during 1971. I am happy to report a continuously satisfactory effluent was achieved. Inevitably at the commencement of the operation of works of this size, growing pains were experienced, particularly in sludge handling.

Trade Waste

Your Effluent Control Officer/Chemist, Mr. Kingham has done good work in the continuous close supervision of effluent discharged into the foul sewer. Proceedings were taken in one instance against a local Industrial Firm, when fines amounting to \$150 plus costs were imposed for discharging trade waste not in accordance with the Trade Effluent Agreement.

During the year 16 samples were taken, of which 12 were found to comply with the Agreement.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This continued in the old brick pit at Hanbury Wharf, which is controlled by the Rural District Council, tipping by the Borough Council being with the Rural District Council's approval.

A weekly collection of refuse took place throughout the town with additional collections from hotels and food premises and certain industrial waste. One visit to each factory was made weekly, and when additional visits were necessary, a charge was levied. Much greater use of the large mobile bulk containers took place during the year. These are popular both with users and with the staff for disposal, being much more hygienic and more easily handled than the conventional bin.

Salvage

Salvage was collected as follows during the year:-

Mixed Waste Paper	-	£129.35
Scrap Metal	-	£119.80
		£249.15

A fire occurred in the old Salvage Depot, a very much outdated building, which resulted in severe damage to the roof, and it was impossible to continue its use. There being no alternative premises, the salvage of waste paper had to cease.

Itinerant Vendors - Queen Street Car Park

From time to time itinerant families in caravans unofficially parked their vehicles on the car park, usually resulting in very untidy conditions quickly developing and many complaints from adjoining residents. Steps are taken to require the itinerants to move by the service of a Notice as soon as their presence is known. This is not a process which is popular either with your Council officials or the men who may have the unpleasant task of towing them off the site. It will indeed be a good thing when satisfactory permanent sites are provided for caravan dwellers of this nature.

Cold Storage Container Depots

The first of these large depots was inaugurated during the year and this inevitably provided additional work for your Public Health Inspectors. Circumstances are such that containers are from time to time despatched straight through from the Ports to Droitwich without inspection. This entails inspection by your Borough Inspectors, sampling where necessary, samples being sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Worcester.

The firm concerned was very co-operative, and no particular difficulties were experienced. It is anticipated that a second depot will be opened in 1972. When both come into full operation, which will include the packing of vegetables and fruit, a great deal of time will inevitably have to be spent upon the work.

Parks and Open Spaces - General

Your Parks and Open Spaces including the tennis courts and bowling greens were maintained in good condition. With the introduction of a Bonus Scheme which was made applicable to the grass cutters, a much greater frequency of cut resulted with subsequently an improvement in the appearance of the town.

The work of the Parks Department has grown immensely during the last few years, and the department is becoming quite a large undertaking.

St. Mary's Churchyard

The Church Authorities asked the Borough Council to adopt St. Mary's Churchyard as a public cemetery, particularly in view of the fact that many of the people buried in the churchyard were not resident in St. Andrew's Parish, nor the real responsibility of St. Andrew's Church. The Borough Council agreed to do this, and the Parks Department took over the maintenance.

Heriotts Pool

The outlet from this Pool, which one assumes was probably an old watercourse which had been piped in many years ago, began to give trouble and frequent blockages occurred. The Council agreed to the provision of a new outlet from the Pool to the storm drain in Worcester Road, and this work was undertaken.

Elm Disease

A serious outbreak of elm disease occurred in the County affecting many elm trees, and Droitwich, in common with the area was much affected. Many fine trees died and what was more unusual, small hedgerow saplings were affected in large numbers. No method of prevention of spread of the disease was found. It was hoped to retard the spread by felling and burning the bark, which provided a habitat for the beetle, which in turn acts as a host to the virus. In the Autumn, steps were taken to mark all the diseased elms, and it was hoped that these would be felled by the owners concerned during the winter.

Droitwich Canal

During the course of the year a Working Party, consisting of Officers of the Development Group and a member of the Inland Waterways Association, produced a report which examined the feasibility of re-opening the old Droitwich Canal and Droitwich Junction Canal. This report stressed that, though the project was not without difficulty, there would be considerable benefit to both the recreational facilities in Worcestershire and to the potential of the town as a boating centre, if the Canal were re-opened.

The Development Committee accepted the report and passed it for the observations of its parent authorities, the Borough and County Councils: both have accepted the report in principle and further negotiations to implement the proposal are proceeding.

St. Peter's Fields

Agreement was reached with the County Council to the transfer of land between the Borough Council and the County to provide a more compact primary school with playground, and at the same time, a more complete unit for the development of the St. Peter's Fields complex. The Borough Council decided that the fields would be best developed as a Sports Centre, and were able to acquire St. Peter's Manor as the central feature to the development, which was a great step forward. With the acquisition of the Manor, the Borough Council sponsored the formation of Droitwich (St. Peter's Fields) Sports Association, which during the year was actively engaged upon the preparation of plans for the provision of Cricket, Rugby Football, Tennis, Squash, and possibly a Bowling Green, with the necessary social facilities.

Application for Grants in respect of these were being made, and it was anticipated confidently that work would commence in 1972.

Reclamation of Old Sewage Works' Site

With the coming into operation of the Ladywood Water Pollution Control Works, a scheme was prepared for the dismantling of the old Sewage Works and the 'Pasveer' Ditch, and the reclamation of the site for use as a public open space. First stages of this work in the draining off and preparation of the site of the sludge beds, was undertaken.

St. Andrew's Brine Baths

One of the most important happenings during the year was the acquisition of St. Andrew's Brine Baths resulting from the Regional Hospital Board withdrawing its interest in the Baths and building a Hydro-Therapy Unit at Highfield Hospital. The Borough Council decided, whilst investigating the future use of the premises, that they would maintain the big swim, such members of the staff as wished so to do, remained with the Borough Council, others leaving to go to Highfield Hospital. The services of the Engineer and the Secretary were retained for six months to allow a smooth transfer. The Borough Council, with the Development Committee set up a Working Party to examine the future of the enterprise.

Baths Chimney

Further complaints were received about dust and grit being deposited on adjoining properties from this chimney. With your Council taking over the Baths, this matter was receiving close attention.

Lido

The Lido had a fairly successful year, and improvements of a minor nature were undertaken. It had been hoped to extend the sun bathing area, but this was not possible. Funds were made available however for use during 1972 for this purpose.

With the building of modern swimming pools in nearby towns, the patronage of the Lido is not now as great as it was and there is a marked reduction in bathers attending during poor weather, when doubtless they go to warm indoor pools.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.
and

Chief Public Health Inspector

GLR/MGM/PT

